

THE  
MONTHLY



GULL  
BULLETIN

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Number 7

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### JULY PICNIC

On Sunday, July 22 the Golden Gate Audubon Society will meet at Canyon Ranch, Marin County, for a picnic. (See enclosed flyer for details.)

### APRIL TRIP TO McCOY RANCH, LIVERMORE

The Saturday trip, April 28, had the advantage of coming the next day after rain; Sunday, April 29, on the other hand, was a beautiful, clear day. Probably the most interesting observation was about a dozen Vaux's Swifts flying low overhead with Violet-green and Cliff Swallows and a couple of White-throated Swifts. We had a remarkably good view of two Golden Eagles also flying low (for eagles) and a third eagle that seemed to sweep almost within reaching distance. Along the stream, a few lucky observers saw a Green Heron in breeding plumage; later, a few others heard and glimpsed a Chat. Nesting birds, of course: a pair of Lewis' Woodpeckers going in and out of their hole in a sycamore tree, a Phainopepla sitting on her nest and giving us the eye (and hers was big and red), as well as, of course, Bullock's Orioles at the ranch. Bird song everywhere: House and Bewick's Wrens, California Thrasher, Orange-crowned and Wilson's Warblers, Black-headed Grosbeaks. Many heard the spring song of the Western Meadowlark for the first time. Altogether about 40-50 made the trip.

—MARJORY REU AND ERLINE HEVEL, *Leaders*

### AN UNUSUAL NEST

A Bullock's Oriole used pieces of fishing lines and many leaders, complete with hooks, to build a nest ten feet up in the willows by Rock Creek, a trout stream near highway 395 in Mono County, California, (elevation: 7,000 feet). It is a very well-constructed pouch with the points of the hooks securely fastened to the outer part of the nest. —REED PIERCE

### GIRL SCOUT AWARD TO NATIONAL AUDUBON IN BERKELEY

On its Golden Anniversary the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., Region XII presented a Certificate of Appreciation "in grateful recognition of the continuing cooperation and support of National Audubon Society Conservation Resource Center, Berkeley, California."

The official presentation was made by Mrs. Kenneth Ferguson, of Region XII of the Girl Scouts, at the Golden Gate branch dinner on June 14. The

award was accepted by Mrs. Frank Scott, representing the National Audubon Society on behalf of Mr. William Goodall, Western Representative.

### COVEL'S CONSERVATION CORNER

Public Utilities Commission hearings on P.G. & E's application for a permit to operate a nuclear power plant on Bodega Bay were held in San Francisco on May 21 and 22. Several Golden Gate Audubon Society members and officers attended at various periods of the sessions, including the writer.

A grim opposition force of some 150 Bodega residents, organized recreation group spokesmen, and scientists nearly filled the chambers. In fact, it was difficult for us to find any real proponents of P.G. & E. in this gathering except the company engineers and attorneys, who did present impressive reasons and arguments why the reactor should be built there. But when opposition testimony began, we heard equally convincing reasons why it should be built elsewhere—if at all! Unfortunately, much time was consumed in cross-examination of a witness who implied "collusion" between P.G. & E. and certain public agencies and institutions which had surrendered claims or interest in Bodega Head when P.G. & E. plans were revealed.

The P.U.C. recessed these hearings after the second day, due to pressure of scheduled business elsewhere, and began the hearings again on June 6. After the conclusion of the final sessions, the Public Utilities Commission will make its decision.

*There must be statewide—as well as regional—planning authorities, with power to set aside such prime natural and recreational areas for all the people! This is as vital as greenbelt zoning to protect prime agricultural land near cities—which we still neglect!*

—PAUL F. COVEL, *Conservation Chairman*

### NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to our Society: from Berkeley, Dr. Katharine S. Bishop, Mrs. John S. Cooper, Mrs. Frederic S. Duhring, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mel, Miss Mary A. Hulbert, Mr. Douglas O'Neill, Reverend and Mrs. O. Tobisch.

—ROBERTA J. LONG, *Membership Chairman*

### SANCTUARY AND MEMORIAL FUND

*In memory of*

Edythe Weichselbaum

Mrs. Morton Raymond Gibbons

Mrs. Maudie L. Renwick

*Gift of*

Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Denny  
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Mr. and Mrs. William Greuner, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. G. D. McCallum

—DR. ALBERT BOLES, *Sanctuary & Memorial Fund Chairman*

### FIELD TRIPS FOR JULY

July 14 and 15, Saturday and Sunday, to Alpine Lodge at Echo Summit. This area is similar to Wright's Lake with mountain lakes and streams and flower-laden alpine meadows. Many birds of the Canadian and Transition Zones may be seen here. Take Highway 50 through Placerville to sign reading Echo Lakes. Turn off highway and go to end of road, one mile. Greyhound travelers get off at Little Norway and walk one mile or call lodge for transportation. For resort accommodations contact Mrs. Samuel Deal at Calif. Alpine Club, Little Norway, Calif. Phone KImball 4-3776. Approximate cost for dinner, overnight lodging and breakfast is \$6.00. Campers may camp at The Firs, a public camp ground, close by. Meet at Lodge 9 a. m. and 2 p. m., Saturday and at 8 a. m., Sunday. Co-leaders, Barbara Bedayn and Phyllis Lindley, Phone 654-3532.

On Tuesday, July 17, to Cliff House. Surfbird, Turnstones and Wandering Tattlers should arrive about this time. Nesting Pigeon Guillemots, cormorants and gulls may also be seen. Sutro Park and, if time permits, Lincoln Park will be included in the trip. Meet at Point Lobos Avenue and 48th Avenue at 9:30 a. m. Number 2 municipal bus stops at this spot. Leader, Florence Plymell, PR 6-1208.

On Saturday, July 28, to Golden Gate Park and Cliff House area. Some early fall migrants should be in at this time, Surfbird and Wandering Tattler being some of them. Views of Pigeon Guillemots, cormorants and gulls may be had. A visit to Golden Gate Park will top off the trip where young ducks and coots are usually present at this time. Meet at 9 a. m., at entrance to Sutro Heights Park, Point Lobos and 48th Avenues. Leader, Florence Plymell, PR 6-1208.

HAROLD G. PETERSON, *Field Trips Chairman*

### EDUCATION COMMITTEE FOR AUDUBON CANYON RANCH

The flora and fauna of Audubon Canyon Ranch are being surveyed by an Education Committee under the guidance of Mrs. Janet Nickelsburg, Chairman. Mrs. William Sherfy, Mrs. Kenneth Shoekey and Mrs. Edward Leary, all of Stinson Beach, have volunteered to make a survey of the wildflowers on the ranch. Mrs. Roberta Long and Mrs. Hubert Fry are compiling a checklist of the birds in the vicinity of the sanctuary.

The Education Committee decided to have a sign posted near the entrance to the trail stating: "This is a sanctuary. Please stay on the trails for your own protection and for the protection of the wildlife. Please pick no flowers. Do not disturb any of the natural resources found here."

Serving as advisory members for the Committee are the following: Dr. Woodbridge Metcalf, Forestry Department, University of California; Mr. Alan Galloway, Geology Department, California Academy of Sciences; Mr. John Howell, Curator of Botany, California Academy of Sciences; Dr.



Robert Orr, Curator of Birds and Mammals, California Academy of Sciences Dr. Joel F. Gustafson, Professor of Biological Sciences, San Francisco State College; and Mr. John Hamilton, long-time resident of Bolinas.

The Education Committee is also studying the historic records of the Canyon Ranch area, and Mrs. Guy M. Milner of the Marin County Historical Society has supplied an account of the history of Marin County's coastal region, plus the names of persons who might be able to supplement the local history with information from personal experiences.

### NEW BIRD SONG ALBUM AT NATIONAL AUDUBON, BERKELEY

Roger Tory Peterson's *Field Guide to Western Bird Songs*, an album of three 12-inch LP records, is now available from the National Audubon Society Conservation Resource Center, 2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, Calif. This album contains the songs and calls of more than 500 species of land and water birds in the western United States, western Canada, Alaska, and the Hawaiian Islands. It is arranged to accompany the 1961 edition of *A Field Guide to Western Birds* by Peterson, and sells for \$12.95. (If ordering it by mail, please add 52 cents sales tax and 30 cents postage.)

The Conservation Resource Center also has a good supply of books for summer reading. Among the recent titles are: *Bird* by Lois & Louis Darling, *Birds in Camera* by Koffan of Hungary, *Designs in Nature* (photographs) by Borsig, *Dolphins-The Myth and the Mammal* by Alpers, *Ideas of Biology* by Bonner, *Murres* by Tuek, *Penguin Summer* by Eleanor Pettingill, *Penguin Island* by Kearton, *Rex Brasher, Painter of Birds* by E. Brasher, *Senses of Animals and Men* by Milne, *Sierra* by Lee, *Subantarctic Campbell Island* by Bailey, *Vanishing Animals* by Street, *Wilderness*, an anthology edited by Brower, *Wonderful World of Nature* by Phillips. There are also many titles by such perennial favorites as Carrighar, Kruteh, Leopold, Olson, Platt, and Teale, and field guides for many vacation areas.

Among the recent juvenile books are *Big Book of Animal Stories* by Green and Grabianski, *Birds in Flight* by Kirk, *Buffalo Land* by Berry, *Heart of the Wild* (animal stories of California's redwood coast) by Schwarzkopf, and *Muir of the Mountains* by William O. Douglas.

Travel light with paperbacks, such as *Adventures in Nature* by Teale, *Birds* by Heinroth, *Forest and the Sea* by Bates, *Grand Canyon* by Kruteh, *King Solomon's Ring* by Lorenz, *Mountains of California* by Muir, *National Parks* by Tilden, *Web of Life* by Storer, and many more.

The National Audubon Society Conservation Resource Center, Berkeley, will be closed for inventory from July 1 through July 15. After inventory it will be open from 12 to 5, Mondays through Fridays.

### A. O. U. MEETING IN AUGUST

The American Ornithologists Union will hold a meeting at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City from August 20 to 24.

**GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.****Financial Statement****Eleven-month period July 1, 1961 to May 31, 1962****Receipts**

July 1/61 Cash in bank & securities (at cost)	\$7,461.66
Membership dues	1,877.17
Screen tours (net)	1,235.34
Interest	124.21
Subscriptions to <i>Gull</i> and sale of field trip check lists	71.35
Held for account of Rare Bird Alert	23.66

**Disbursements**

## Membership Services:

Gull expenses	\$1172.56	
Representation at National convention	400.00	
Advance on May/62 boat trip	377.85	
Meeting expenses	115.00	
Christmas count fees	12.50	\$2077.91

## Education &amp; Conservation:

Audubon Canyon Ranch		
Fund promotion	739.75	
Donation to Condor	200.00	
Expenses of Education and		
Camp Scholarship Committees	61.96	
Expenses of Audubon Field Notes	27.20	1028.91

Operating expenses: Telephone, postage  
stationery and supplies, post office box,  
and safe deposit box

	78.37	
\$	3,185.19	10,793.39
	7,608.20	
\$	10,793.39	10,793.39

Cash in bank on May 31/62 and  
securities (at cost)

—ERLINE HEVEL, *Treasurer*

**GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.**

Established January 25, 1917

A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

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Claims for missing numbers of THE GULL should be sent to the Assistant Editor. Changes of address should be sent to the Membership Chairman.

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and National, \$6.50 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately \$1.50 per year.

Visit the Conservation Center of the NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY  
2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 4, California TH 8-4042

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GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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